

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Amendments to the Claims.

Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration in this application. Claim 1-9 remain in their original form. Claims 10-18 have been allowed.

2. Rejections to the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by each of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,810,341 to Williams and 5,608,970 to Owens. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,105,951 to Shibata.

Claim 1, as amended calls for a truss assembly table having, among other things, a plurality of elongated panels supported on a frame. Each panel includes an upper surface, a lower surface, and opposing lateral edges. The lower surface of the panels abut the frame and the panels are arranged in a spaced relation to one another. The truss assembly table also includes at least one stop member having first and second sidewalls. The stop member is positionable in a released position and a locked position wherein the sidewalls engage the lateral edges of the panels.

Williams discloses a truss table having steel panels supported on a frame by a channel in which locator stops slide and are secured. As illustrated in FIG. 3 of Williams, the lower surface of panels 52 does not abut frame 24, as called for in claim 1. Furthermore, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the locator stops of Williams engage the upper and lower surfaces of the panels to secure and lock their position within the channel. Williams does not disclose, teach, or suggest a truss table having panels, the lower surface of which abut the frame, and stop members having sidewalls that fixedly abut the lateral edges of the panel to lock the position of the stop member.

Similarly, Owens discloses a table having c-shaped tracks formed in the table. The tracks receive quick release clamps which clamp to the upper and lower surfaces of the track to lock the clamps in position. Owens does not disclose, teach or suggest a truss assembly including panels having a lower surface abutting the frame. Furthermore, Owens does not disclose, teach or suggest stop members having sidewalls that fixedly abut the lateral edges of the panels to lock the stop member in position.

For the reasons discussed above, Williams and Owens do not disclose, teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-9 depending therefrom are patentable over Williams and Owens. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Referring now to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 as anticipated by Shibata, as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 5, Shibata discloses a work table having T-shaped slots formed in the table. The T-shaped slots receive work positioning jigs. Shibata does not disclose, teach, or

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suggest stop members capable of being positioned in a released position wherein first and second sidewalls are displaced relative to one another. Furthermore, Shibata fails to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of elongated panels supported by a frame. Shibata also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the lower surface of the panels abutting the frame as required in claim 1. For these reasons, claim 1 and claims 2-9 depending therefrom are patentable over Shibata.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Wilson for indicating that claims 10-18 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, in addition to claims 10-18, are in allowable form, and Applicant respectfully requests that action toward a Notice of Allowance be taken.

Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with this submission, however, if any fees are necessary, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-0390, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:



Sarah M. Jabbari, Reg. No. 47,679
Baker & Daniels LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2700
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 237-0300
Fax: (317) 237-1000
E-mail: smjabbar@bakerd.com